

OROVILLE FACILITIES RELICENSING PROJECT FERC PROJECT NO. 2100

CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN ROUGH-DRAFT OUTLINE

Executive Summary

This section will provide a summary of the key elements of the Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP), including basic project information, the need for the CRMP, how it will be used, and the regulatory context under which the CRMP was developed. The key consulting parties will be listed, and the contents of the CRMP defined.

Scope and Purpose

This section will describe in more detail the need for the CRMP, the goals of the CRMP, and how it will be used during the course of the new license. Methods to review and update the plan to keep it current and effective will be described in this section.

Project Description

This section will describe the Project facilities and basic operational characteristics. The key goals related to the long-term operation of the Project will be described. This information will be drawn from the Initial Information Package (IIP) and/or the “project description” to be developed for the FERC relicensing application package. The FERC boundary and the Area of Potential Effects (APE) will be described, and maps will be provided to depict the APE.

Regulatory Context

A specific listing/description of the federal and state laws, regulations, and procedures relevant to historic preservation and the Oroville Facilities Project will be presented in this section.

Project Setting

A summary of the project setting, with a focus on the prehistoric, ethnographic, and historic context of the project area, will be provided. This information is expected to be summarized from the cultural resources inventory and evaluation documents.

Previous Investigations

This sub-section will summarize the efforts undertaken to identify and describe prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and areas of traditional and sacred concern to Native American tribes and other ethnic groups. A summary of the initial archaeological

studies at Lake Oroville will be provided, as well as a description of larger cultural resource efforts undertaken in the project area in the 1980s and 1990s. This information will be drawn largely from the technical reports being produced in association with Study Plans C1 and C2. Areas within the APE that have not been adequately inventoried for cultural resources will be described and mapped.

Inventory Results

This sub-section will provide information on the documented cultural resources within the APE, with tables and maps used to clarify the presentation of this information. The status of evaluation efforts, including tabulations of sites that have been formally evaluated for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as those that remain unevaluated, will be provided. The presentation of this information is expected to be provided by resource category (e.g., prehistoric sites, protohistoric sites, historic sites, etc.)

Appendices such as maps, correspondence, and the executive/management summaries from various technical studies, may be included in the CRMP.

Project Effects

This section will describe the known aspects of Project operation that have affected, or are likely to affect, cultural resources. These factors will include both direct impacts, such as raising and lowering the reservoir level, as well as indirect impacts, such as recreational use of the reservoir for boating and camping. Data on known impacts will be drawn largely from the inventory and evaluation efforts noted above. Proposals to modify the Project or its operation that could affect cultural resources in the future will also be described.

Goals and Priorities

The aspects of historic preservation/cultural resources management that are most important for the long-term will be described in relation to the overall Project management strategy. The relationship between overall Project management and key elements of the cultural resources management program will be described, including the structure under which the CRMP will be implemented. The goals, priorities, and standards for cultural resources management are expected to be influenced by the key cultural resource types, the most important project effects, and decisions based on developing the most effective long-term management strategy.

Management Measures

This section of the CRMP will provide detailed information on the specific measures to be implemented during the course of the new license. These may include both site-specific measures and project-wide approaches to managing cultural resources within the APE. Alternative approaches to treatment measures, and rankings by preference, may be

included to provide flexibility for addressing on-going impacts (e.g., reservoir fluctuation) over time. This “menu-driven” approach may facilitate decision-making given the number of resources, project-related impacts, and the variety of site-specific conditions present at Lake Oroville.

The treatment measures to be detailed in the Oroville Facilities CRMP may include items such as:

- Site-specific stabilization/protection actions.
- Development of interpretive materials/displays.
- Monitoring of high-sensitivity and/or high-impact areas.
- Standards for inventory/evaluation for future project actions in areas not adequately inventoried for cultural resources (e.g., a new equestrian trail outside the currently surveyed area).
- Protocols to be undertaken if unanticipated historic properties and/or human remains are discovered in the future will be outlined.
- Actions to be taken during emergencies (e.g., potentially catastrophic flood event precludes implementation of normal monitoring activities).
- Methods related to the curation of materials that may be recovered in the future.

Implementation and Schedule

This section will focus on management structure and routine issues related to implementation of the CRMP. Key items will include designation of the CRMP coordinator/manager, routine reporting requirements, and dispute resolution, if necessary. This section will also reinforce the requirements for periodic review of the CRMP, procedures for making revisions (including consultation requirements), and will clarify future actions that may or may not trigger separate consultation.

Note: The CRMP for the Oroville Facilities Project is expected to be developed throughout 2003. Development of the CRMP involves consultation with the Tribes, Federal, State and Local governments, other interested parties, and the State Historic Preservation Officer. Alterations to the rough-draft outline presented above are likely to be made as information is gathered and the content of the CRMP is developed. The CRMP is expected to be filed with the hydroelectric license application to FERC.